



**State Senator  
Kirk Watson  
District 14**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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*The following is a statement from Sen. Watson regarding the Senate passage of legislation that prohibits city ordinances to ensure all workers receive paid sick leave:*

This legislation is being offered in the name of business and there have been multiple references to Austin's paid sick-leave ordinance.

Austin is focal point in a worldwide economy. It's been at the top of a variety of lists. List of places to do business. One of the best places for start-ups or to create a business. And it has seen the growth of business. Austin is a place that has proved to that world that it is open to business, and most places envy Austin's business climate.

Frankly, it defies logic at this time to be on the floor of the Senate talking about a bill as though somehow Austin is anti-business.

A big reason Austin is so successful is that it is open. It can attract and retain talented people who want to live in a place that values sick leave for everyone.

Austin has had its flaws — and still does — when it comes to treating people equitably and fairly. But it is doing more and more to ensure equity, to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and in the way they should be as human beings. That makes this place attractive.

If we want to talk Austin business, I suggest we would do far better for Austin business by getting out of the way.

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